

PANHANDLE HEALTH DISTRICT

PRESENTS

Pandemic Flu Particulars

Tips to help communities prepare for, survive and recover from pandemic flu and other disasters

All federal, state, tribal, territorial and local emergency plans are required to address the needs and concerns of **at-risk** people. But do you know who they are?

At-risk people include children, senior citizens and pregnant women; people who have disabilities; live in institutionalized settings such as nursing homes; are from other cultures; and/or have limited English proficiency; chronic medical disorders; no transportation; and medication needs.

According to Health and Human Services, before, during and after an incident, at-risk individuals may need help maintaining independence and with communication, transportation, supervision and medical care.

At-risk people have hurdles that can threaten their lives during a pandemic flu. For example, a person who needs dialysis and relies on public transportation for medical appointments and food shopping will be in trouble when pandemic flu sickens 40 percent of bus drivers and transportation is suspended. What happens to a homebound senior when both she and her part-time caregiver catch the flu? How does she maintain her independence? And can she live alone safely?

HHS encourages community officials to:

- ◆ Locate people in the community who are homebound, homeless and disabled.
- ◆ Establish good relationships with community service providers and advocates to develop planning response and recovery actions that are realistic. It may take a coalition of providers and social organizations.
- ◆ Use a trusted community source to ensure that messages about influenza reach at-risk populations.

Read all about protecting the at-risk citizens in your communities at http://www.astho.org/pubs/ASTHO_ARPP_Guidance_June3008.pdf

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